

Abstract of the disclosure

The present invention provides a spread illuminating apparatus in which a transparent substrate is illuminated thereby illuminating a liquid crystal panel provided close to the transparent substrate in order to enhance the illumination luminance and also suppress the interference fringes. In a spread illuminating apparatus in which a square transparent substrate is provided close to the surface of a liquid crystal panel, and a fluorescent tube as a bar-like light source is arranged on the side surface of the transparent substrate, a plurality of straight groove portions are formed on the surface of the transparent substrate intersecting one another obliquely with respect to the four sides of the transparent substrate. While the convergence of the rays of light is carried out only for the component thereof vertical to the groove portions, in the present invention, since the groove portions are formed in such a manner as to intersect one another, the rays of light which are emitted in different directions are all converged, whereby the luminance is remarkably enhanced. In addition, the groove portions intersecting one another suppress the interference fringes of the rays of light.